

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for displaying a plurality of related SMS (Short Message Service) messages comprising:
  - reviewing a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party;
  - determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages also associated with a second party; and
  - outputting the SMS message thread.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a reply message.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a message other than a reply message.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:
  - searching the one or more SMS messages based on a first identifier associated with the second party.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the first identifier comprises one from the group of a telephone number and an SMS address.
7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
  - storing the plurality of SMS messages associated with the first party in a persistent storage device.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a sender of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the receiver.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a receiver of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the sender.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a current SMS message from the second party; and  
determining whether to thread the current message into the SMS message thread.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:  
applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages,  
and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:  
applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics,  
the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent  
threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the non-threaded party comprises a broadcasting party.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:  
applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics,  
wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to  
verify the second party as a threaded party.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party matches an entry in a phone book.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the correlating further comprises:  
applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein  
the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS  
messages from being threaded.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the correlating further comprises:  
applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein  
the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in  
which SMS messages are threaded.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the outputting the SMS message thread  
comprises:  
outputting the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a  
threaded format.
19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
displaying an icon in the SMS application to represent an SMS message  
thread.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein the SMS application is a network  
browser.
21. The method of claim 18, wherein outputting further comprises:  
formatting messages originated by the first party in a first display format; and  
formatting messages originated by the second party in a second display  
format.
22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
displaying the SMS messages.
23. A method for displaying a plurality of related messages in a receiving  
apparatus, the method comprising:  
receiving a current message in the receiving apparatus from a sending  
apparatus, the receiving and sending apparatuses having different

sending and receiving messaging applications;  
determining whether to thread the current message into a message thread  
comprising messages between the sending and receiving apparatuses;  
and  
displaying the message thread in the receiving message application.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of the sending and receiving applications comprises an instant messaging application.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein one of the plurality of messages are transported in a protocol that does not correlate messages.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the unique identifier is native to the protocol.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of SMS (Short Message Service) messages.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) messages.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of e-mail messages.

30. A device for displaying a plurality of related SMS (Short Message Service) messages, comprising:

- a SMS message database to store a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party; and
- a threading module, coupled in communication with the SMS message database, the threading module determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages associated with a second party, and to output the SMS message thread.

31. The device of claim 30, wherein one of the second party SMS messages comprises a reply message.

32. The device of claim 30, wherein one of the second party SMS messages comprises a message other than a reply message.

33. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module searches an SMS message database based on a first identifier associated with the second party.

34. The device of claim 33, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.

35. The device of claim 33, wherein the first identifier comprises an SMS address.

36. The device of claim 33, wherein the threading module retrieves a second identification for the second party, wherein the SMS message thread comprises SMS messages associated with both the first and second identifications.

37. The device of claim 30, wherein the first party is a sender of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the receiver.

38. The device of claim 30, wherein the first party is a receiver of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the sender.

39. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module receives a current SMS message from the second party, and determines whether to thread the current message into the SMS message thread.

40. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.

41. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.

42. The device of claim 39, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to verify the second party as a threaded party.

43. The device of claim 40, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party matches an entry in a phone book.

44. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS messages from being threaded.

45. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in which SMS messages are threaded.

46. The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module outputs the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a threaded format.

47. The device of claim 46, further comprising:  
the SMS application to display an icon to represent a threaded SMS.

48. The device of claim 30, further comprising:  
a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to display the SMS messages.

49. The device of claim 30, further comprising:  
a messaging device to display the SMS messages.

50. The device of claim 30, further comprising:  
a mobile device to display the SMS messages.
51. A system for exchanging a plurality of SMS (Short Message Service) messages between a first device and a second device, comprising:  
the first device for sending a current SMS message to a second device, and  
determining whether to thread the current SMS message into a first SMS message thread according to outgoing SMS message rules; and  
the second device for receiving the current SMS message, and threading the current SMS message into a second SMS message thread according to incoming SMS message rules.
52. The system of claim 51, wherein the outgoing SMS message rules include a rule that generates a thread responsive to receiving a reply message to the current message.
53. A computer product, comprising:  
a computer-readable medium having computer program instructions and data embodied thereon for displaying a plurality of related SMS (short message service), comprising:  
reviewing a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party;  
determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages associated with a second party; and  
outputting the SMS message thread.
54. The computer product of claim 53, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a reply message that has yet to be transmitted.

55. The computer product of claim 53, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a message other than a reply message.
56. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the identifying comprises:  
searching the one or more SMS messages based on a first identifier associated with the second party.
57. The computer product of claim 56, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.
58. The computer product of claim 56, wherein the first identifier comprises an SMS address.
59. The computer product of claim 53, further comprising:  
retrieving a second identification for the second party,  
wherein the SMS message thread comprises SMS messages associated with both the first and second identifications.
60. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:  
applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages,  
and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.
61. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:  
applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics,  
the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.



62. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:

applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to verify the second party as a threaded party.

63. The computer product of claim 62, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party's unique identification matches an entry in a phone book.

64. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS messages from being threaded.

65. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in which SMS messages are threaded.

66. The computer product of claim 53, wherein the outputting the SMS message thread comprises:

outputting the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a threaded format.

67. The computer product of claim 66, further comprising:

displaying an icon in the SMS application to represent a threaded SMS.